

You Just Read My Mipt

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff, 4.20.13[©]

In a conference room, CHERYL, an admin, is setting up a special new device for a business meeting. CHERYL attaches some sort of a hi-tech helmet to each of the heads of the meeting ATTENDEES. Through the casual conversations between CHERYL and the ATTENDEES that occur during this process, we learn that this is all very brand new, one or two steps ahead of a webex meeting, in which the minds of meeting participants are read and so collaboration moves forward in a more intense manner, at the speed of thought itself. CHERYL also cautions that, with it being a very new technology, it may not always read their minds perfectly.

From the moment the meeting begins we find that the device completely misreads every thought. We as the audience are made aware of this by our seeing the ATTENDEE having a thought while hearing their VOICEOVER of what the thought is; followed by the computer announcing the mangled version of what it understood the thought to be; this is followed by the other ATTENDEES nodding to indicate they received the thought, the next ATTENDEE thought in response reflecting, in VOICEOVER form, a reaction to the computer's mangled version. Additionally, the ATTENDEE who had the thought knows his thought has been mangled and is visibly displeased. Yet as the computer continues to mangle each response to each mangled response (which itself is in response to a mangled response, etc., etc.), it falsely reflects total agreement about its own invented thoughts. Finally the meeting ends with an outcome apparently having been agreed upon, though it is in every aspect a fabrication of the computer. The ATTENDEES appear frustrated by it all as they leave the conference room, casting strange sideways glances at each other in visible silence, however, as we listen in on their VOICEOVER thoughts, most of it is bleeped.

The End